

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method comprising:

receiving, via one of a plurality of different types of input/output (I/O) communication modules of[[at]] an appliance communications manager that stands apart from a number of source and destination appliances, a connection request from a first source appliance;

receiving at the appliance communications ~~manager~~manager, destination appliance communication information for a first destination appliance;

receiving at the appliance communications ~~manager~~manager, a communication message from the first source appliance;

storing the communication message in a data memory of the appliance communications manager;

establishing, via one of the plurality of different types of I/O communication modules of the appliance communications manager, a communication link with the first destination appliance; and

transferring the stored communication message to the first destination appliance via the communication link.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein:

receiving a communication message comprises receiving a communication message via a first communication technology and a first one of said I/O communication modules; and

establishing a communication link comprises establishing a communication link ~~having~~via a second communication technology and a second one of said I/O

communication modules, the second communication technology being different than the first communication technology.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein establishing ~~a~~the communication link comprises establishing, via the appliance communications manager, ~~[[a]]an infrared~~ communication link using one of said I/O communication modules ~~one of an infrared input/output (I/O) driver and a short wave radio module.~~

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the communication link comprises establishing, via the appliance communications manager, ~~the~~an analog cellular communication link using one of said I/O communication modules ~~an analog cellular I/O module.~~

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the communication link comprises establishing, via the appliance communications manager, ~~the~~a digital cellular communication link using one of said I/O communication modules ~~one of a digital cellular I/O module and an internet I/O driver.~~

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the first source appliance comprises one of a printer, a scanner, a facsimile machine, an overhead projector, an appliance storage device, and an appliance whiteboard.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An apparatus comprising:
a ~~first~~plurality of input/output (I/O) communication ~~module~~modules of different types to receive ~~[[a]]i~~ connection request~~requests from a plurality of source appliances, ii) destination appliance communication information for a plurality of destination appliance~~appliances, and ~~[[a]]iii) communication message~~messages from ~~[[a]]said source appliance~~appliances;
data memory to store the communication ~~message~~messages received from the source ~~appliance~~appliances; and

a processor to access the data memory ~~and to~~ to establish ~~[[a~~
~~]]communication linklinks with the destination appliance~~appliances that are subjects
of said received connection requests, and~~[[:]]~~

~~a second I/O communication module~~ to transfer the stored communication
~~messages~~messages to the destination ~~appliance~~appliances via the communication
~~linklinks~~.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein ~~the first and second~~
~~I/O communication module comprises a~~modules, respectively interfacing with source
and destination appliances that are parties to a communication, implement different
~~communication technology than the second I/O communication module~~technologies.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein one of the first I/O
~~communication module comprises one of~~modules provides an infrared I/O driver ~~and~~
~~a short wave radio I/O module~~.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein one of the first I/O
~~communication module~~modules comprises an analog cellular I/O module.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein one of the first I/O
~~communication module~~modules comprises ~~one of~~ a digital cellular I/O module ~~and an~~
~~internet I/O driver~~.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A system comprising:

a source appliance to transmit a connection request, destination appliance
communication information for a destination appliance, and a communication
message, to an appliance communications manager that stands apart from said
source and destination appliances;

the appliance communications manager including i) a plurality of different
types of input/output (I/O) communication modules from which one or more I/O
communication modules for communicating with said source and destination
appliances are selected, and ii) a data memory to store the communication message

received from the source appliance, the appliance communications manager to transfer the stored communication message to the destination appliance; and the destination appliance to receive the communication message from the appliance communications manager.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The system of claim 12, wherein the source appliance comprises one of a printer, a scanner, a facsimile machine, an overhead projector, an appliance storage device, and an appliance whiteboard.

Claim 14 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the communication link comprises establishing, via the appliance communications manager, a short-wave radio communication link using one of said I/O communication modules.

Claim 15 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the communication link comprises establishing, via the appliance communications manager, an internet communication link using one of said I/O communication modules.

Claim 16 (new): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein one of the I/O communication modules provides a short-wave radio I/O module.

Claim 17 (new): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein one of the I/O communication modules comprises an internet I/O driver.